



MOON LANDING



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You are a member of a space crew scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lighted surface of the moon. However, due to mechanical difficulties, your own ship was forced to land at a spot 200 miles from the rendezvous point.

During re-entry and landing, much of the equipment aboard was damaged and, since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip.

15 items are listed as being intact and undamaged after landing. Your task is to rank them in terms of their importance for your crew, to allow them to reach the rendezvous point. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on through to number 15 for the least important.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Provide a 'moon landing ranking chart' for every member of your group.
2. Ask each young person to take 10 minutes to decide their own rankings, and record the choices in the left-hand column (my ranking).

3. Invite everyone to get into groups of 4-5. Discuss their individual choices and refine their rankings based on the collective thoughts of the team. Record the group rankings in the second column (team rankings).
4. The correct answers were compiled by a team of scientists and engineers at NASA. Display the NASA 'expert' rankings on a PowerPoint presentation, whiteboard or photocopy. Compare your individual and group answers with the correct answers and determine a score.
5. For each item, mark the number of points that your score differs from the NASA ranking and then add up all the points. Disregard plus or minus differences. The lower the total, the better your score.
6. As the young people work together in a team, sharing thoughts and ideas, this should produce an improved score over the individual results. But will this be enough to survive?

SCORES

0 - 25	Excellent. You and your crew demonstrate great survival skills!
26 - 32	Good. Above average results. Yes, you made it!
33 - 45	Average. It was a struggle, but you made it in the end!
46 - 55	Fair. At least you're still alive, but only just!
56 - 70	Poor. Sadly not everyone made it back to the mother ship!
71 - 112	Very poor. Oh dear, your bodies lie lifeless on the surface of the moon!

MOON LANDING RANKING CHART

My ranking	Salvaged items	Team ranking
	Box of matches	
	Food concentrate	
	50 feet of nylon rope	
	Parachute silk	
	Two .45 caliber pistols	
	One case of dehydrated milk	
	Two 100-pound tanks of oxygen	
	Stellar map	
	Self inflating life raft	
	Magnetic compass	
	Five gallons of water	
	Signal flares	
	First aid kit containing injection needles	
	Solar powered FM receiver	
	Portable heating unit	
Score		Score

NASA EXPERT ANALYSIS

Item	NASA Ranking	NASA's Reasoning
Box of matches	15	Virtually worthless -- there's no oxygen on the moon to sustain combustion.
Food concentrate	4	Efficient means of supplying energy requirements.
50 feet of nylon rope	6	Useful in scaling cliffs and tying injured together.
Parachute silk	8	Protection from the sun's rays.
Portable heating unit	13	Not needed unless on the dark side.
Two .45 caliber pistols	11	Possible means of self-propulsion.
One case of dehydrated milk	12	Bulkier duplication of food concentrate.
Two 100 lb. tanks of oxygen	1	Most pressing survival need (weight is not a factor since gravity is one-sixth of the Earth's -- each tank would weigh only about 17 lbs. on the moon.)
Stellar map	3	Primary means of navigation - star patterns appear essentially identical on the moon as on Earth.
Self-inflating life raft	9	CO ₂ bottle in military raft may be used for propulsion.
Magnetic compass	14	The magnetic field on the moon is not polarized, so it's worthless for navigation.

5 gallons of water	2	Needed for replacement of tremendous liquid loss on the light side.
Signal flares	10	Use as distress signal when the mother ship is sighted.
First aid kit, including injection needle	7	Needles connected to vials of vitamins, medicines, etc. will fit special aperture in NASA space suit.
Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter	5	For communication with mother ship (but FM requires line-of-sight transmission and can only be used over short ranges.)